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### ***Research Interests***

Research in my laboratory is focused on the interaction between adipocyte hormones and neuronal circuits that mediate energy and glucose homeostasis. Contrary to the prevailing view of adipose tissue as merely a storage site for lipids, peptide and steroid hormones and cytokines secreted by adipose tissue are actively involved in the regulation of feeding, energy expenditure, and neuroendocrine and immune function. Adipocyte hormones and cytokines, for example, leptin, adiponectin, resistin, and TNF- $\alpha$  have also been implicated in insulin resistance, diabetes, and cardiovascular complications of obesity. We utilize mouse and cell models to investigate how these factors influence the expression of neuropeptides and how the latter may predispose to obesity and abnormal regulation of glucose and lipids.

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